**(b) Yes**, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Netaji Case Probe**

*53. DR. GOPAL RAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled, "Netaji case probe yet to take off", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 29th October, 1999;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the major hurdles which the Commission has been facing include finance and operative aspects, like issuing a formal advertisement in newspapers inviting people and witnesses who know about Netaji, to appear before the inquiry panel; and

(c) if so, what steps are being proposed by Government to remove the various hurdles of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that like any new set-up the Commission had the usual teething problems. This is because creation of basic infrastructure and other facilitites to make an organisation functional, invariably requires deliberations amongst the Ministries/Departments of the Government as per the procedural drill laid down in this behalf. However, with the allotment of office accommodation at Calcutta; provision of necessary budget; appointment of a Secretary to the Commission alongwith other key functionaries; designating officers as Head of the Department and Drawing & Disbursing Officer (DDO); allotment of a Pay & Accounts Office at Calcutta and the DDO Code to the Commission; etc., the Commission is now all set to go into the inquiry entrusted to it. The term of the Commission has already been extended for a period of six months beyond 14.11.1999, in response to the request received from the Commission.

The statutory notification inviting statements, representations etc. from interested persons is now being issued.

The Government is extending full cooperation to the Commission so as to facilitate and expedite the inquiry.

**Attacks on Minoritites**

†*54. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Miniter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been serious attacks on minoritites, especially the Christians, in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of attacks on churches;

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard; and?

(e) the number of persons arrested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There have been 3 noteworthy incidents of attacks on members of the minority community, particularly Christians during the last 2 years which are as under:—

(i) Murder of Mr. Graham Stewart Staines, an Austrailan Christain Missionary on 22/23 Janaury 1999 in District—Keonjhar (Orissa).

(ii) Murder of Father Arul Doss on 1/2 September, 1999 (night) in Village Jamubani in Mayurbhanj District (Orissa).

(iii) Alleged attack/molestation of Sister Ruby, a Tamil Christian Missionary, who was working as a Health Awareness worker at Village-Jalalpur, near Chapra town (Bihar) on 20.9.99

(c) and (d) As per available information, the following are the State-wise details of attacks on Churches upto 31st October 1999.

| Name of State/UT | 1998 Attacks on Churches | 1999 (Upto 31.10.99) Attacks on Churches |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Bihar | 1 | — |
| 2. Gujarat | 25 | 15 |
| 3. Haryana | — | 1 |

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.